4. Conclusions

The conclusions derived from the study were under-2 children in the coastal area of Cochin exhibited developmental delay to an extent of 3.9 percent with more girls affected (4.9%) than boys (2.8%). The extent of delay in various domains ranged between 1.3 to 8.1 percent with lowest delay in self-help skills and highest in social skills. Factors having highly significant correlation with growth and development of the under-2 children included not only the nutritional status of children but also the birth weight of the child, prolonged breast feeding, child care practices, health of the child, mother's education.

Regarding home environment 64.3 percent of households possessed a good environment conducive to the development of children. The maximum attainment in this respect was on emotional and verbal responsivity of mothers, followed by opportunity for variety in daily stimulation. The least scored item was provision of play materials.

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